

ABSTRACT

A SONET/SDH frame providing for an optimized management of K1 and K2 bytes of protection protocol and providing for the management of a number of nodes higher than sixteen, which is the highest number which is provided for at the present time. In practice, the bits of a third byte (K0) of Multiplex Section OverHead are used in such a way that at least one of them represents a Source Node IDentification Extension bit, at least one of them represents a Destination Node IDentification Extension bit and at least one bit of those remaining indicates a change of the information in said first, second or third bytes (K1, K2, K0). In this way, the nodes which can be managed can be even 128 and the switching rate could be highly increased.